

Department of Land and Natural Resources

Sustainability Hotspot

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WAIKIKI SHORE WATERS

~Island of Oahu~



Top to bottom: Waikiki lies in the shadow of a world renowned landmark. Recreational activities in Waikiki include paddling, thrillcraft, surfing and more for both visitors and residents.

Waikiki Beach is a world famous landmark. People come from around the globe to swim, snorkel, surf, sail, and canoe in Waikiki's waters. Offshore activities for the visitor include submarines, thrillcraft, scuba diving, and parasailing. During times of peak use, as many as 18,000 persons may be using the shoreline area creating serious safety concerns.

As with most of our hotspots, there are multiple concerns for DLNR at Waikiki. In addition to public safety, the department must also focus on beach erosion, water quality, and the health of marine animals and the natural and artificial offshore reefs.

However, because of the high density of recreational ocean users in a limited area, Waikiki is a prime example of a DLNR Boating Hotspot.

DLNR'S Sustainability Hotspot Team for Waikiki:

Stephen Thompson - Boating and Ocean Recreation, Oahu, 587-1973;
Brian Kanenaka - Aquatic Resources;
Kevin Kong - Conservation & Resources Enforcement;
Mike Lapilio - Conservation & Resources Enforcement;
Sam Lemmo - Land Division;
Meghan Statts - Boating and Ocean Recreation;

is responsible for the long-term sustainability of this world class resource.

DLNR's Vision for the Future and How to Attain It

Components of DLNR's future vision for Waikiki include:

- maintenance of department relationships with lifeguards and other agencies;
- promotion of watershed management;
- reduction of non-point source pollution impacting the area.

DLNR recently developed and adopted the Coastal Erosion Management Plan which addresses the steady disappearance of sand along shorelines and helps plan for a sustainable future. Studies have shown that the presence and number of aquatic animals in the area is on the increase and the marine life population is expected to slowly improve.

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Top: Waikiki's fish populations are improving in spite of the high density of beach users. Middle: Boat operators must navigate among surfers, swimmers and other watercraft in Waikiki's shorewaters. Water safety is one of DLNR's major concerns. Bottom: Hotspot Team member Kevin Kong of Conservation and Resources Enforcement.

DLNR's Boating and Ocean Recreation Division is improving services and public safety through a new staff position responsible for the management of Waikiki's commercial operations and administrative rules.

DLNR's long-term vision for the future of the Waikiki Shorewaters Hotspot includes increased awareness of the resource condition and rules which protect the resource. This educational component will be addressed through a departmental Conservation and Resources Enforcement officer assigned to the area as a member of the Waikiki "sustainability" team. With this addition, an enforcement, as well as an educational presence, will be felt both in the water and on the beach.

To sustain the extraordinary popularity of this world famous resource, DLNR also intends to develop a long-term plan for continued public access, enhance opportunities for the recreational dive industry and manage coastal erosion along this shoreline.

This DLNR hotspot illustrates many of the problems found commonly in areas of high user density. It serves as a model for change that could help DLNR manage similar sites like Kaanapali on Maui and Kaneohe Bay on Oahu. 🌺



DLNR's Hotspot Team for the Waikiki Shorewaters (l-r): Lemmo, Lapilio, Kanenaka, Statts, Thompson.